of the Targetted Public Distribution System and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. As and when specific information is received in respect of starvation deaths or major deficiencies in the functioning of the Public Distribution System, a Team of Officers is deputed to visit the areas concerned. So far such teams have been sent to Orissa and Rajasthan, amongst other States.

Rejection by Pakistan to use land route for Indo-Afghan trade

256. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has rejected Afghanistan's request to use country's land route for continuing its trade ties with India;

(b) if so, whether Indo-Afghanistan trade would continue through alternative route avoiding Pakistan territory; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Pakistan has not allowed trade-related and some other Indian products destined for Afghanistan to enter through the India-Pakistan border.

India-Afghanistan trade and economic relations continue to strengthen and expand through commercially available channels and routes to Afghanistan.

Visit by foreign dignitaries

257. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign dignitaries who visited India since August, 2002 till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of the dignitaries;

(c) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is given as under: